THE MONKEY IN THE FOREST - by **Chethan Karanth**, 2010

A little girl asked her father “Can you get me a monkey to play with?”

to which the Father said “No child it’s not that easy to find a monkey.

It’s not like finding a stray dog on the street.”

the little girl said “but father I want to see a monkey play, swinging from trees

..and I want to be like it”

Father said “child, if you want a monkey.. you need to go to the forest....”

“Ah!” said the girl “I will go to the forest ..if that is where to find a monkey”

the father laughed at the innocent girl and said “yes dear go... go to the forest

where it is far.. where everything is raw and dirty.

Where they say dwell the evil sprites..

BUT where Life is..”

She asks her father

“Father, Father will you come with me.?”

“no child..

It’s too far, it’s too dense, it’s too dark “

..it is beautiful but it is rough...

..it’s fresh but it’s old..

…....i don’t want to go there. I don’t think anyone should.

..A few years back, I knew a monkey,

It was a bratty little thing, so innocent so full of life

so charming..

I don’t think I will see it again…

“What happened to her?” asked the little girl.

Father said “She.... hmmm… she has changed,

…she has moved on ..she may no longer live there..”

Little did he know the impact of his words on the little girl,

who thinks “Wow! I bet that’s where life begins..

want to see life as it happens

..i want to feel the dirt, feel the mud

.. I want to feel the rain ..feel the pain..

..I bet that’s where my monkey is..

...forest is the place to be.

….

I WANT TO SEE THE FOREST..

…..

The Next Day!

Dreaming about finding the lost monkey and about wandering in the forest,

the little girl got up early the next morning..

Not wanting to anger her father, she quietly got out of the house without telling anyone.

walking out she had no idea where to find that THING called the FOREST ..where her monkey lives.

she was desperate, she was determined, she was someone wanting to discover.

She headed into the unknown. Not knowing where she was going …she walked into infinity.

As the sun came up over the horizon ..suddenly, she saw an old lady.

Selling some wonderful flowers.

The little girl went up to her “Wow!.. what a lovely bunch of flowers you have there!”

She picked up a few and smelled them. The smell took her to another world, where she’d never been.

The flowers had colours more vivid than a rainbow.

She asked the old lady “Madam, where did you get these flowers from?”

The old lady replied “the Forest”

...”Forest???” the girl asked

..”yes. the Forest” said the old lady “..under the foliage, of the trees “

The girl got so excited listening to the old lady.

She said “I want to go there too ..where is this thing called ‘Forest’?”

The old lady replied “It’s not a thing.. it breathes, it has colours, it has green, it has yellow.

It’s alive, it is LIFE”...

”but..” she began.. “But what?” asked the girl

“but.. you are too young ..and it’s too dangerous”

“But I want to go there! I don’t care if it is dangerous” said the girl. “go to the East” the old lady said.

She knew that no matter what, the little girl wouldn't listen to her.

“go to the East...”

Determined to go to the forest and find the monkey the girl heads East.

She starts walking briskly

Little knowing what surprises awaited her…

It was almost afternoon as she came to the end of the town..

The last shop.. The last house.. The last cross road..

Of what *was* her world.. the town, the people, the market place

she hadn't yet seen anything beyond that.

The little girl for a moment thought “may be this was a bad idea..”

“maybe I should head back home..”

“this is a big mistake..” But then after the cross road, the thick forest appeared!

She thought about her monkey, the forest and the wildness she was looking for.

Ignoring her calculative brain saying “STOP”

..breaking all social conditionings that stop people from exploring new ideas, newplaces..

She dashes away from the town1

As she walks towards the line of trees,

In her minds eye she sees a half-monkey half-human creature...

it seems to call her

into the dense forest.

….

WILL WE TAKE THE GIRL INTO THE FOREST? ..PLEASE ..!

….

Its already dusk by now ..when the little girl steps into the forest,

the leaves below her feet feel so fresh

and wet,

with all the smells of the earth...

It feels so weird!

The girl looks at the sky

she sees the trees covering everything above

as if the sky had been eaten up

in Green …all over.

a moist misty smell fills her lungs.

She is all confused ..but happy.

She touches a tree trunk, feels the roughness of it.

As she touches it..

she hears a voice, the tree speaking to her.. saying ‘Hug me’

it doesn’t feel weird at all …the girl hugs the tree .

she feels like a little kid hugging her mother.

A silence sweeps across the forest floor

..across the little girls whole life.

She feels a sudden sense of calmness, a calmness she had never felt before.

She looks back at a narrow opening leading to the path ..back to ‘civilisation’ (as some people call it)

But he light from it seemed to be fading away. It had lost its glory and its charm.

She suddenly feels a little afraid and tired.. she sits under the lap of her tree

wondering what to do

her mind filled with emptiness,

she no longer remembers anything... Who she is where she is from

what does she want from this forest..

Nothing

All is empty

she stares.. at the endless forest canopy ..losing track of time

A gentle wind blows on her face. She starts to feel sad ..and god only knows why

A tear drop rolls down her cheek ..her eyes fill with tears.

With a heaviness in her eyes ..her eye lids slowly close ..and the little girl drifts off ..into sleep

The next morning the girl is awoken by the sweet sounds of birds' chirping,

Her eyes open wide.. she sees the canopy above.. the bright and the green ..the shimmering of life .

For a minute, she is dazed and confused, for she is not in the comfort of her own home.

She is in the wild.

But the confusion is a happy one.. She likes it..

she takes a long breath of fresh air and looks around

…this is the first time she has woken up in such a place

She has no plans, No idea, nowhere to go. Empty in her stomach, she senses a pureness in her.

Cleansed of her city-self, by the forest wind. She has become a new person.

All new.. All empty, but in a good way.

The little girl feels hungry in her stomach ..and she also feels thirsty.

A thirst which needs to be quenched ..but by water? ..or maybe by ..the monkey she is looking for!

So she heads off in a random direction totally lost ..yet knowing where to go.

As she walks she sees a Stream gushing from the hill side.

She quickly bends down and touches the water ..feeling it on her face.

bowing down on her knees ..surrendering herself ..to Mother Nature

she starts to drink Her water

as animals do.

Suddenly, she feels her hunger gone.. as though she'd had a big meal.

The little girl then walks deeper into the forest ..going nowhere.

As she walks, she is scratched by bushes and leaves, twigs and thorns prick her

Yet.. she moves on..

As she walks into the ‘unknown’ she sees a small clearing, in the middle of which, is a small hut

something about it.. draws her to the hut.

The hut has no windows, no doors ..just the small entrance.

The little girl pauses, a minute.. just standing there.

“There is something about this place..” she says

“I dont know .. it is calling me!”

She slowly walks toward it.

The spaces around the hut slowly disappear

..she sees only ..the hut.

The forest, the trees, the birds, the sun, the universe.. seem to..

disappear...

She takes one step at a time

…she walks towards the hut ..her anticipation building

She loses awareness of herself ..and the world

then she enters

the hut

...

(THE HUT) AWAKENING!

…

The little girl sees one who is happy ..and cheerful

..full of Life !

untouched by ‘right or wrong’.

So pure and Lustful for life..

So Raw ..so wild

And yet ..so kind.

Just like the FOREST..

SHE HAS FOUND HER MONKEY!!

….

THE END ? ….

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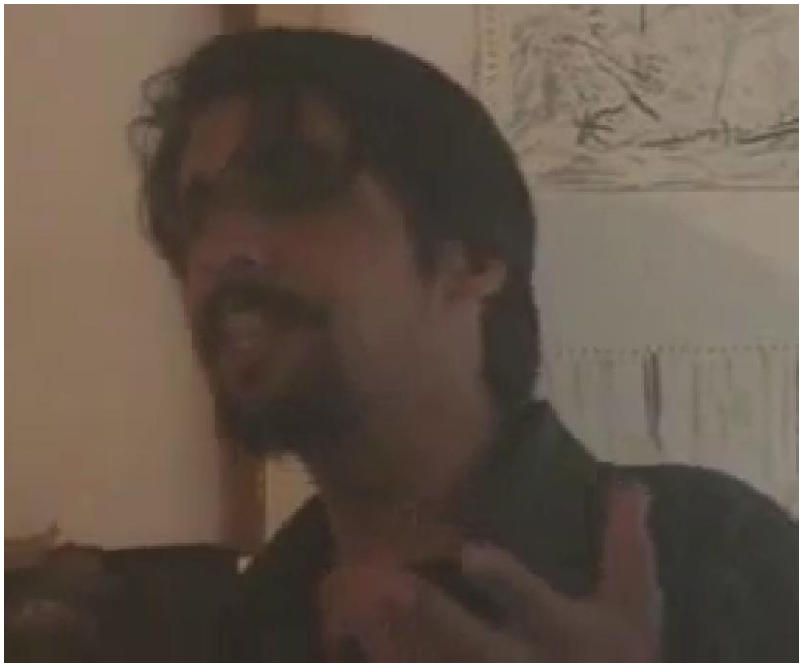
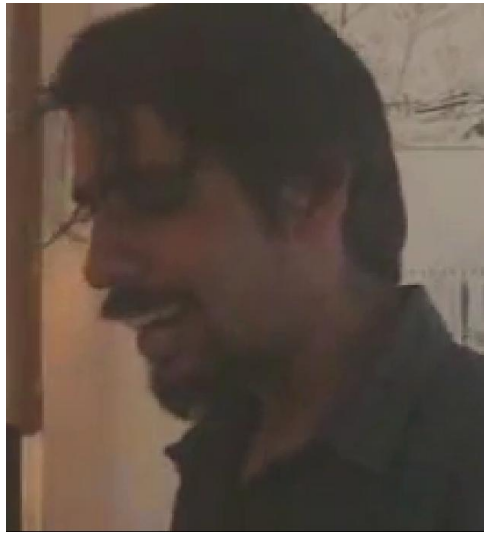
dramatisation

Interactive





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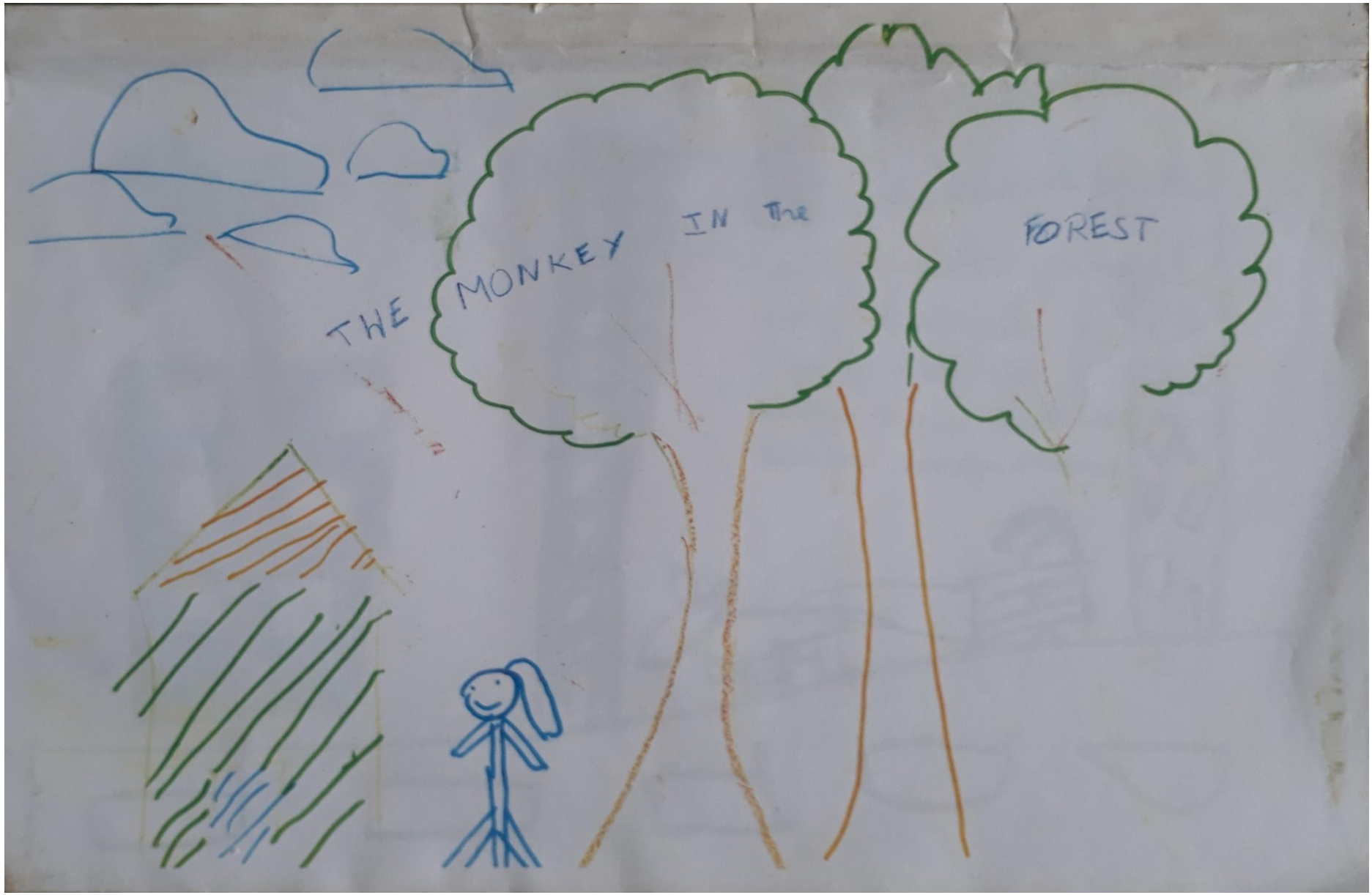
..and after story free fun painting session ☺


THE MONKEY IN The FOREST

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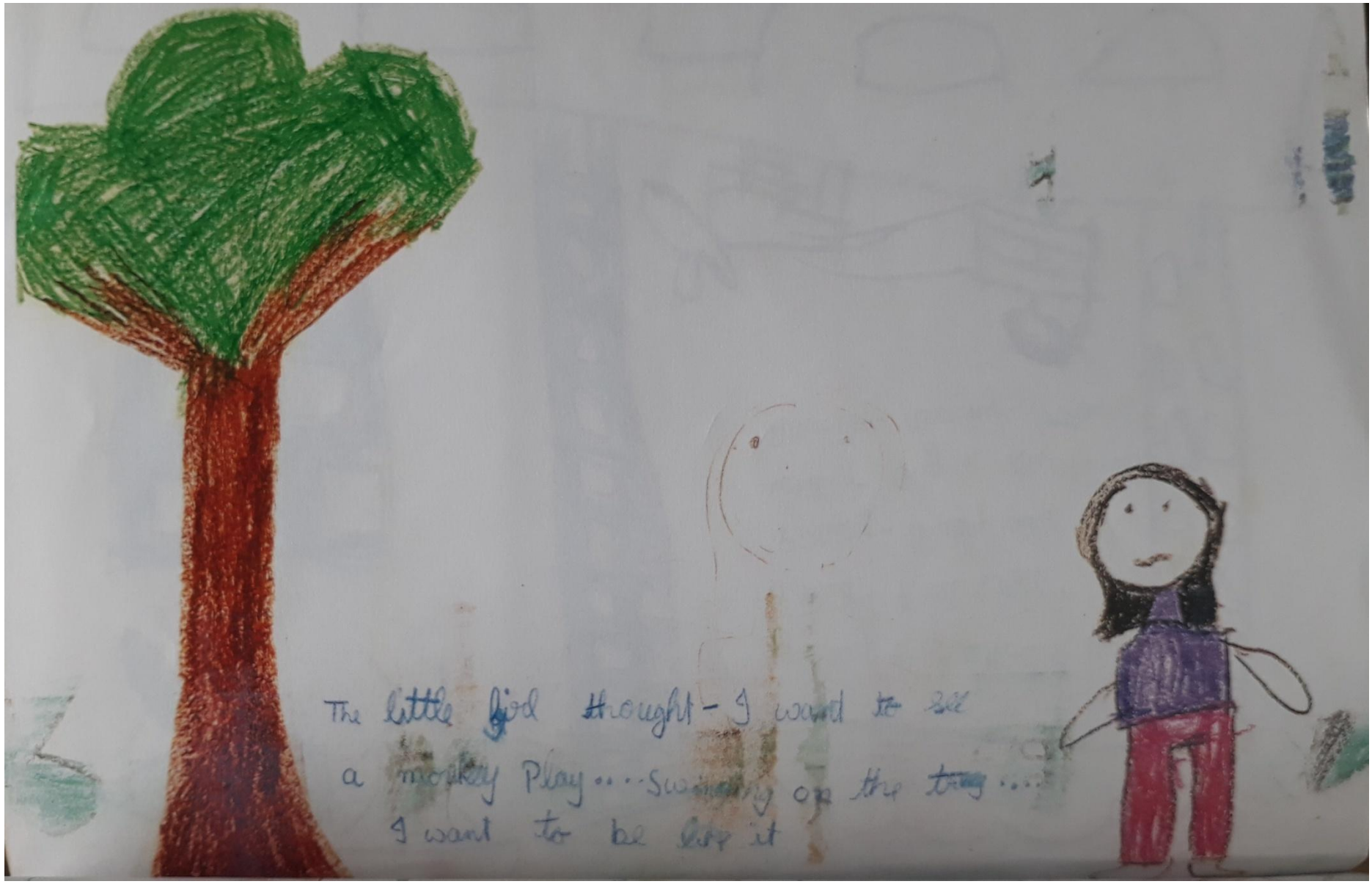
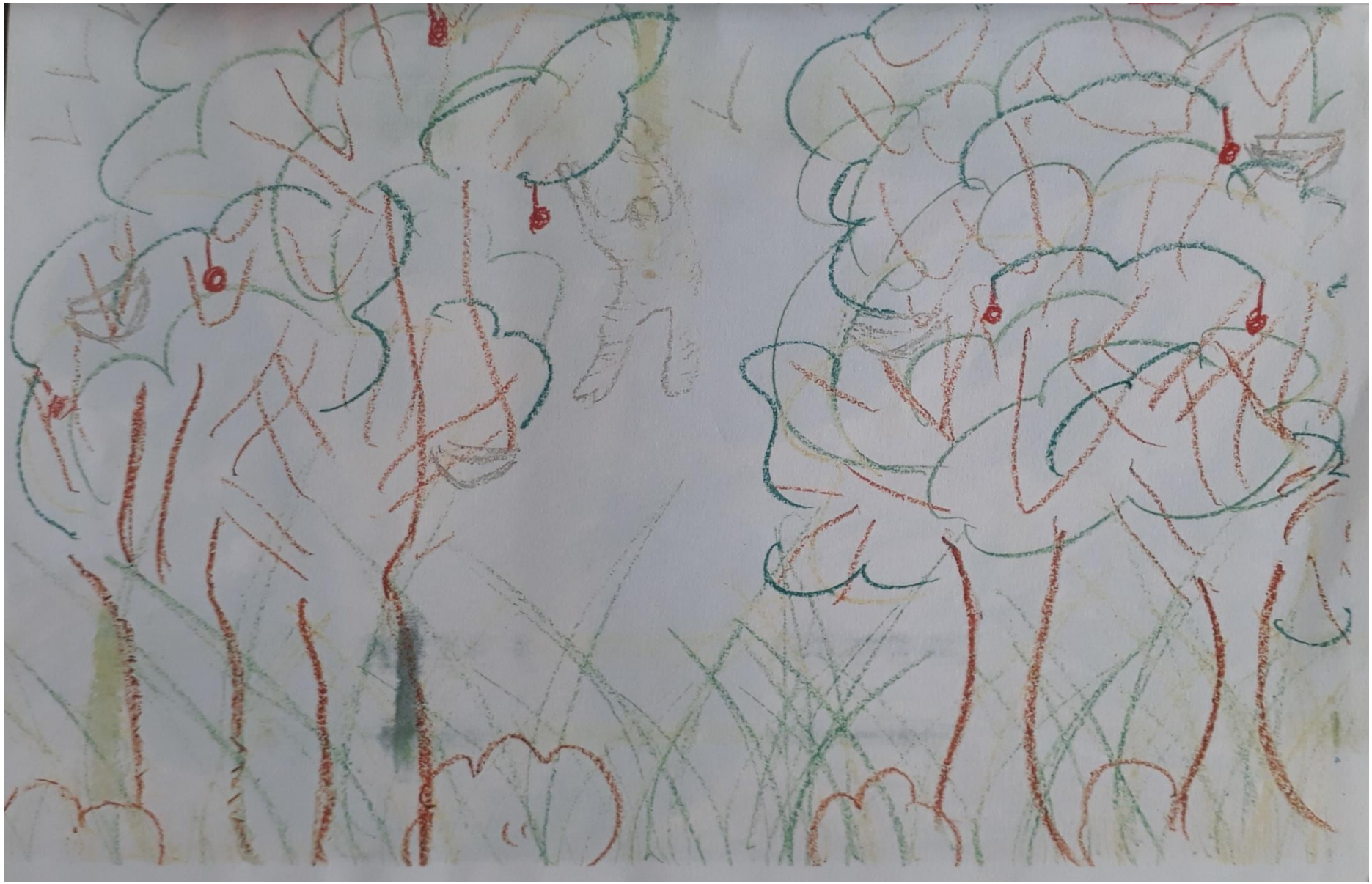
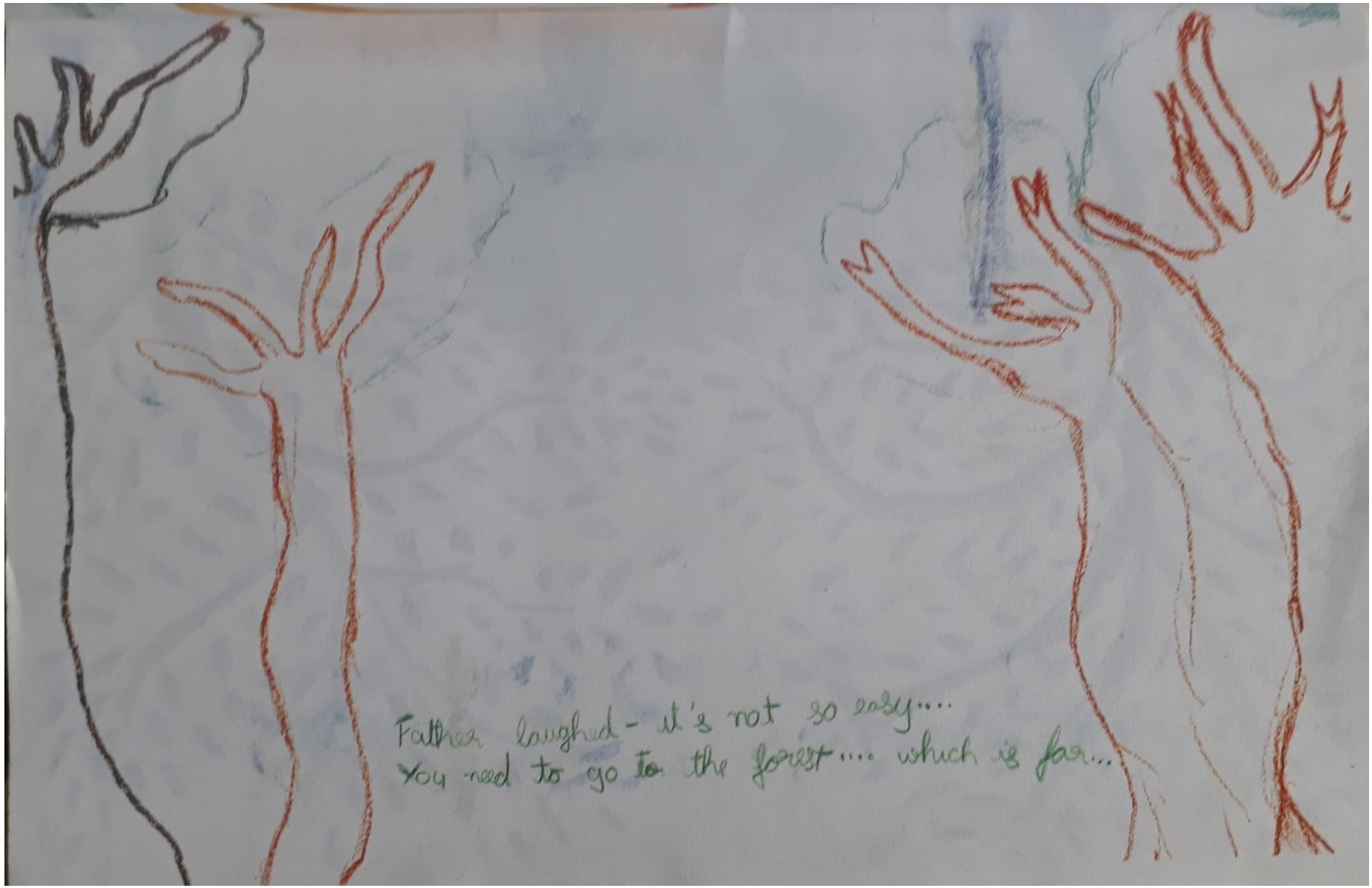
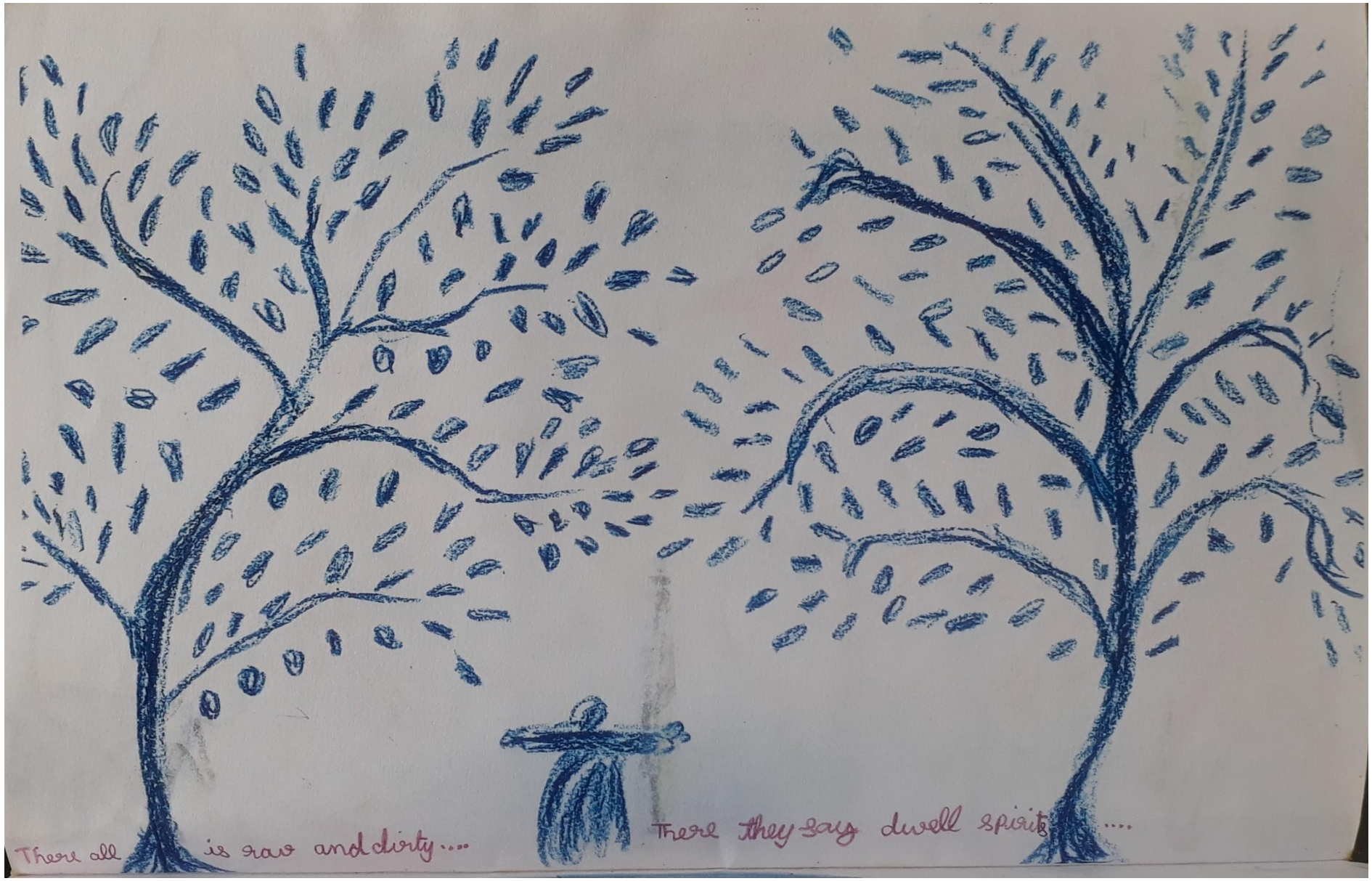

The little bird thought - I want to
a monkey Play.... Swinging on the tree....
I want to be like it

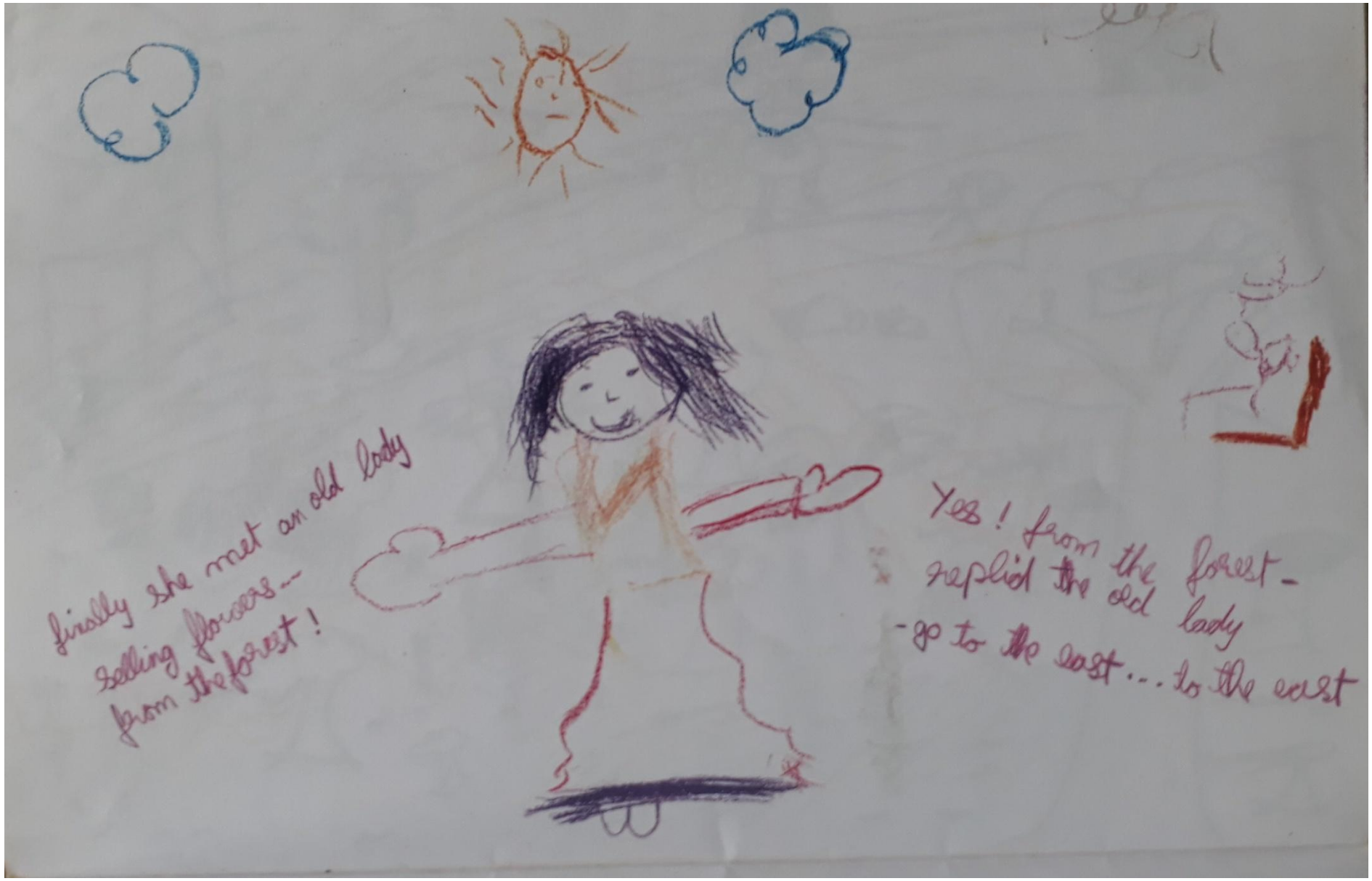


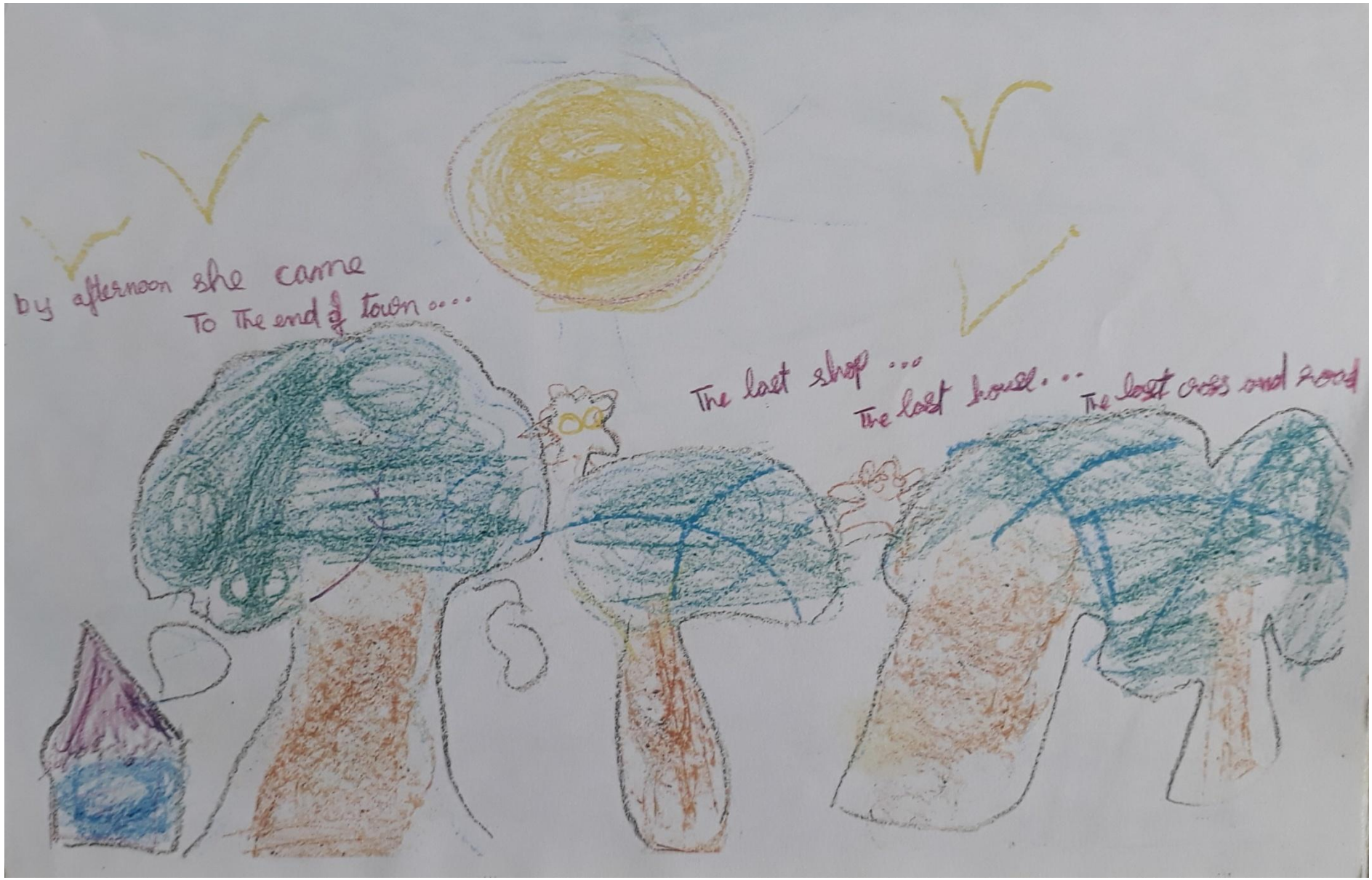
She asked her father - Please get me a monkey to play

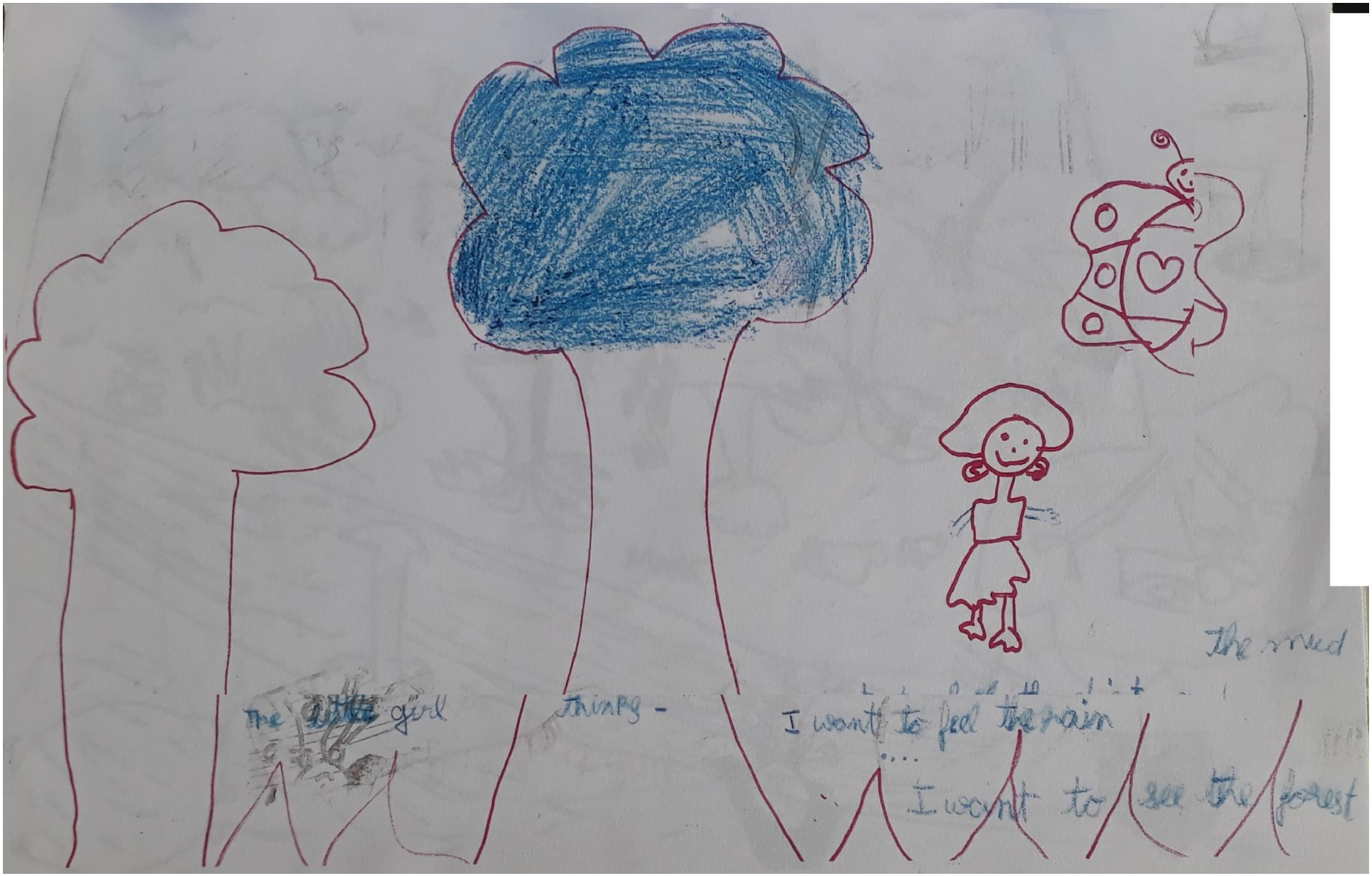

Father laughed - it's not so easy....
You need to go to the forest.... which is far...

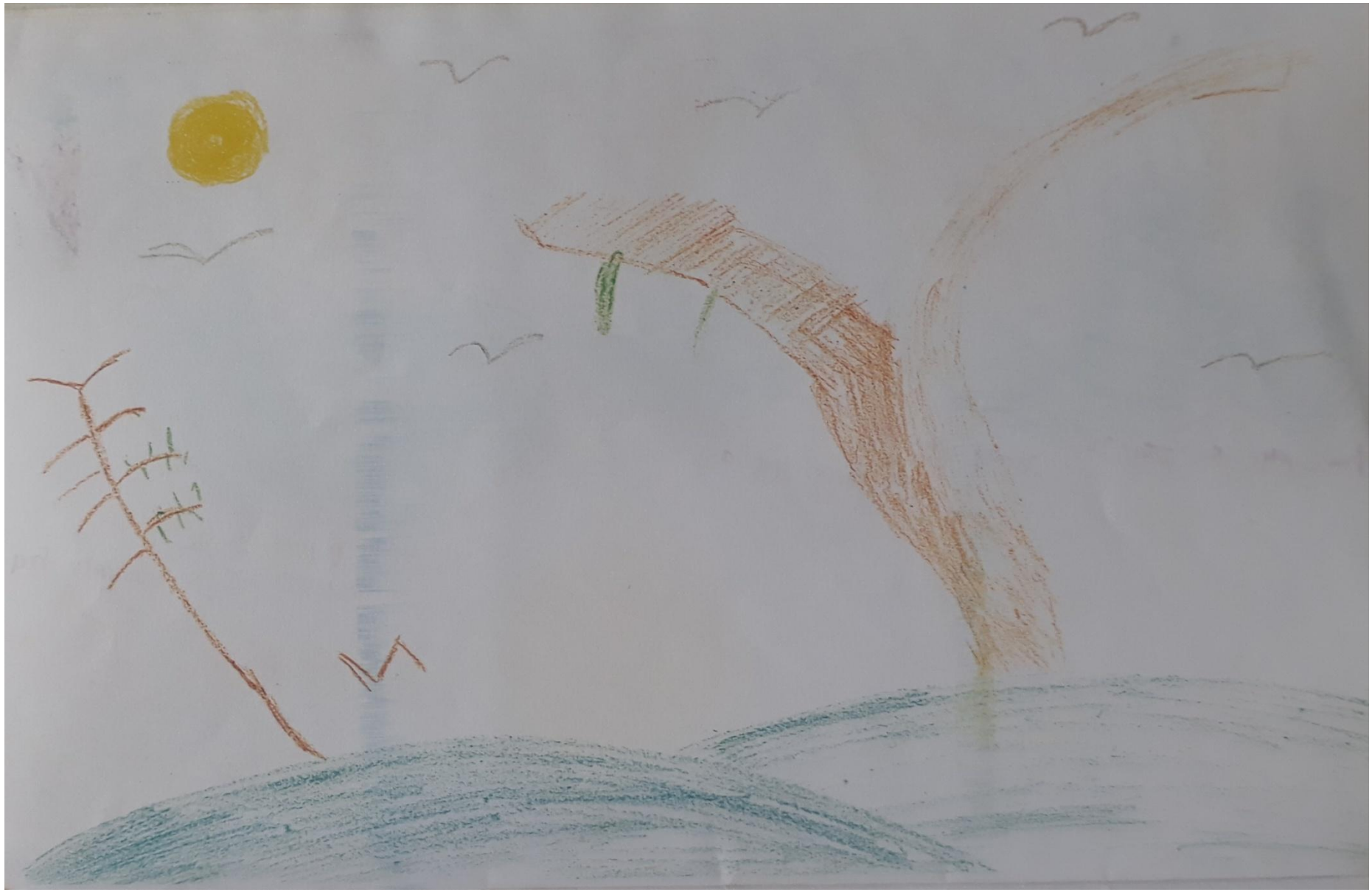

There all is raw and dirty....
There they say dwell spirits....

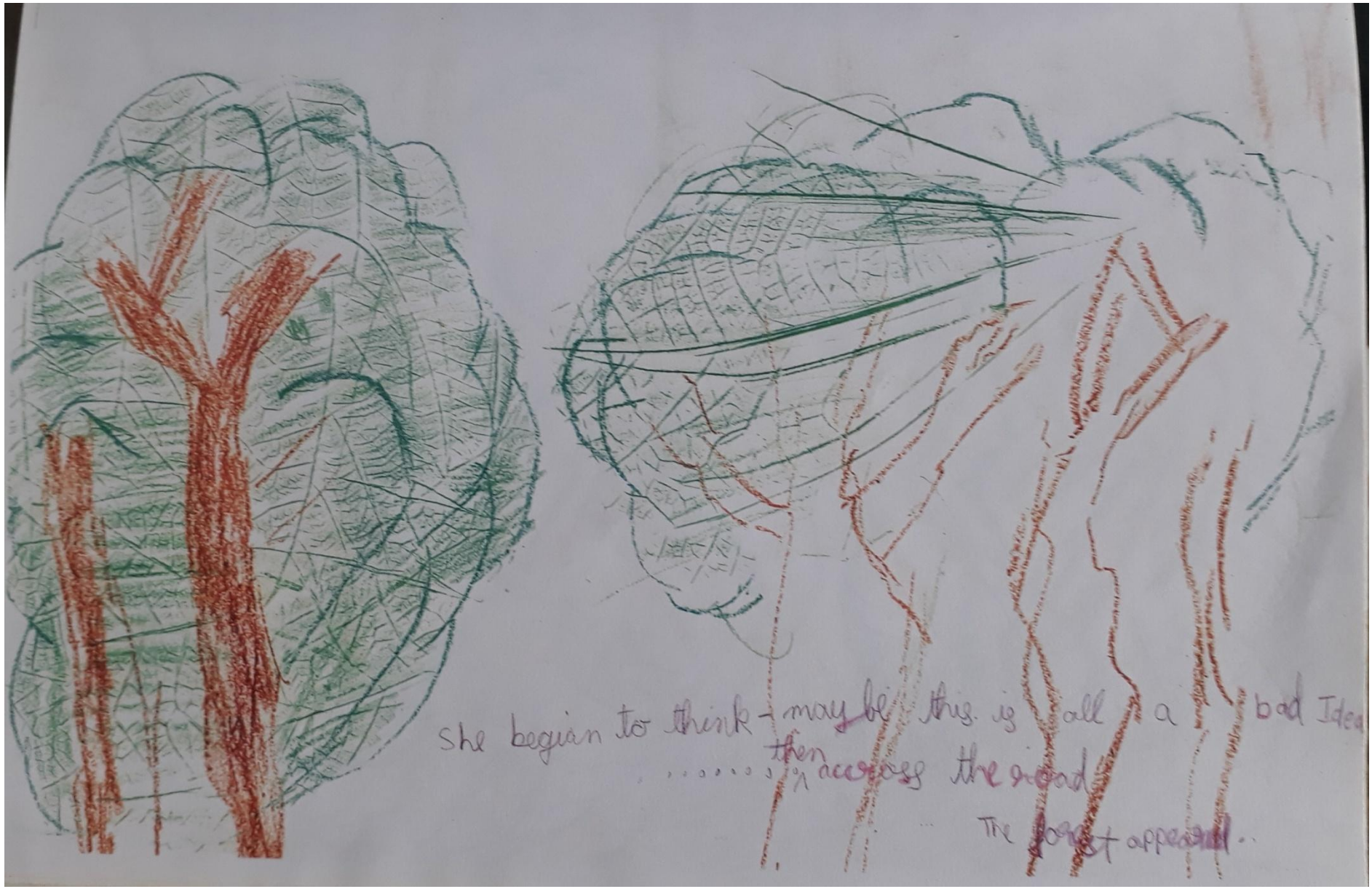
The next day

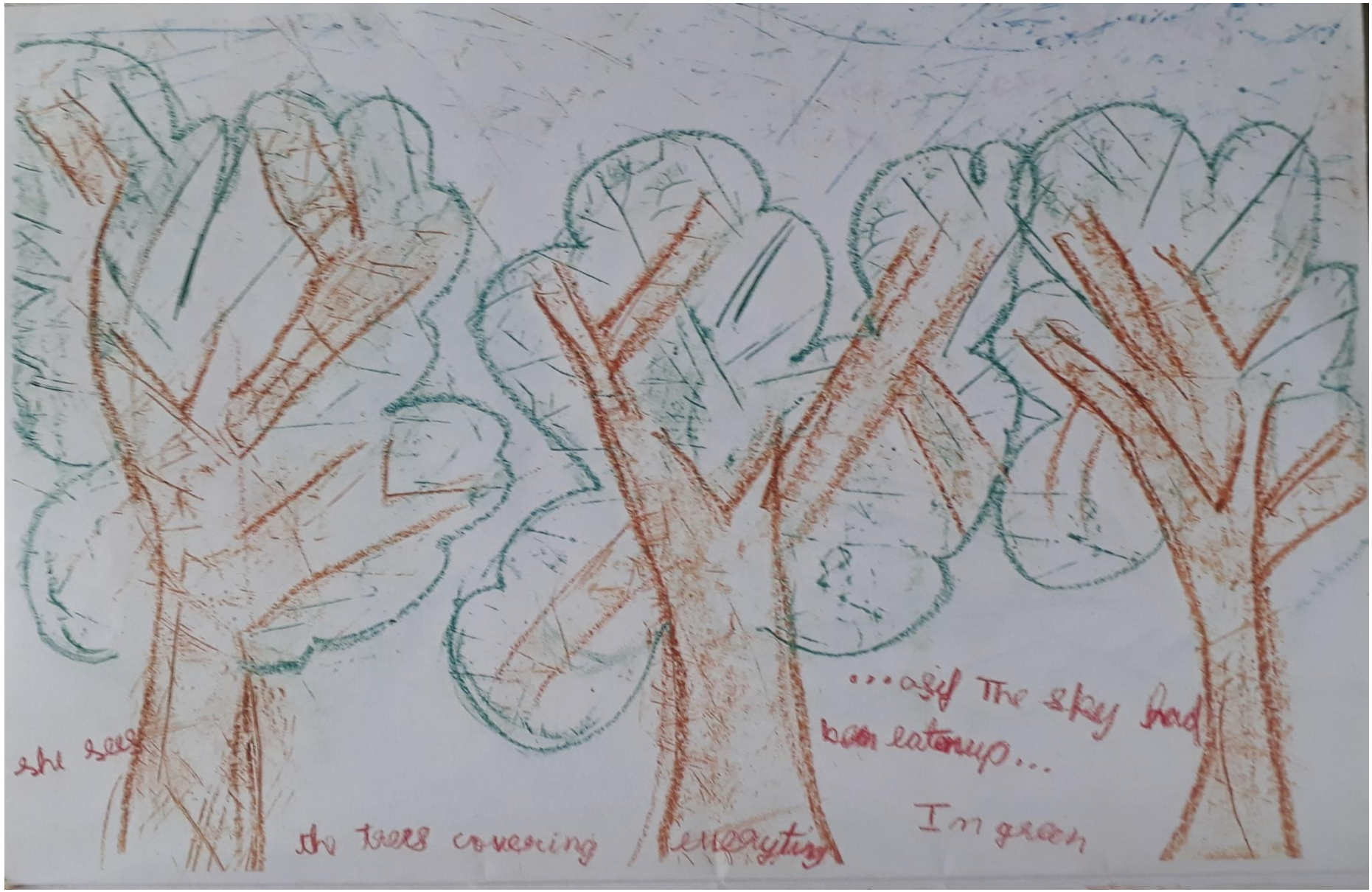

finally she met an old lady
selling flowers...
from the forest!
Yes! from the forest-
replied the old lady
-go to the east... to the east

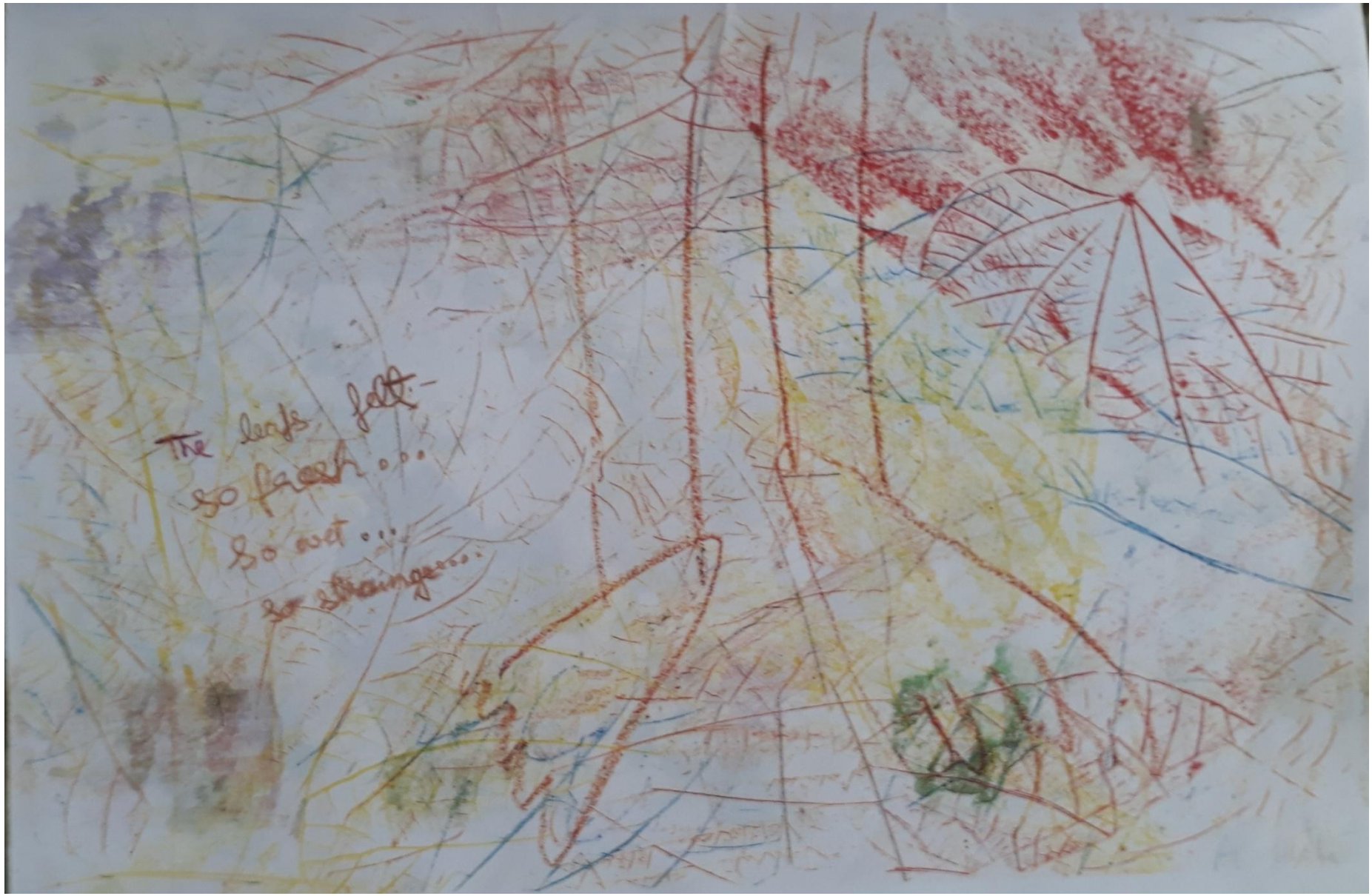

By afternoon she came
To the end of town....
The last shop...
The last house...
The last cars and road

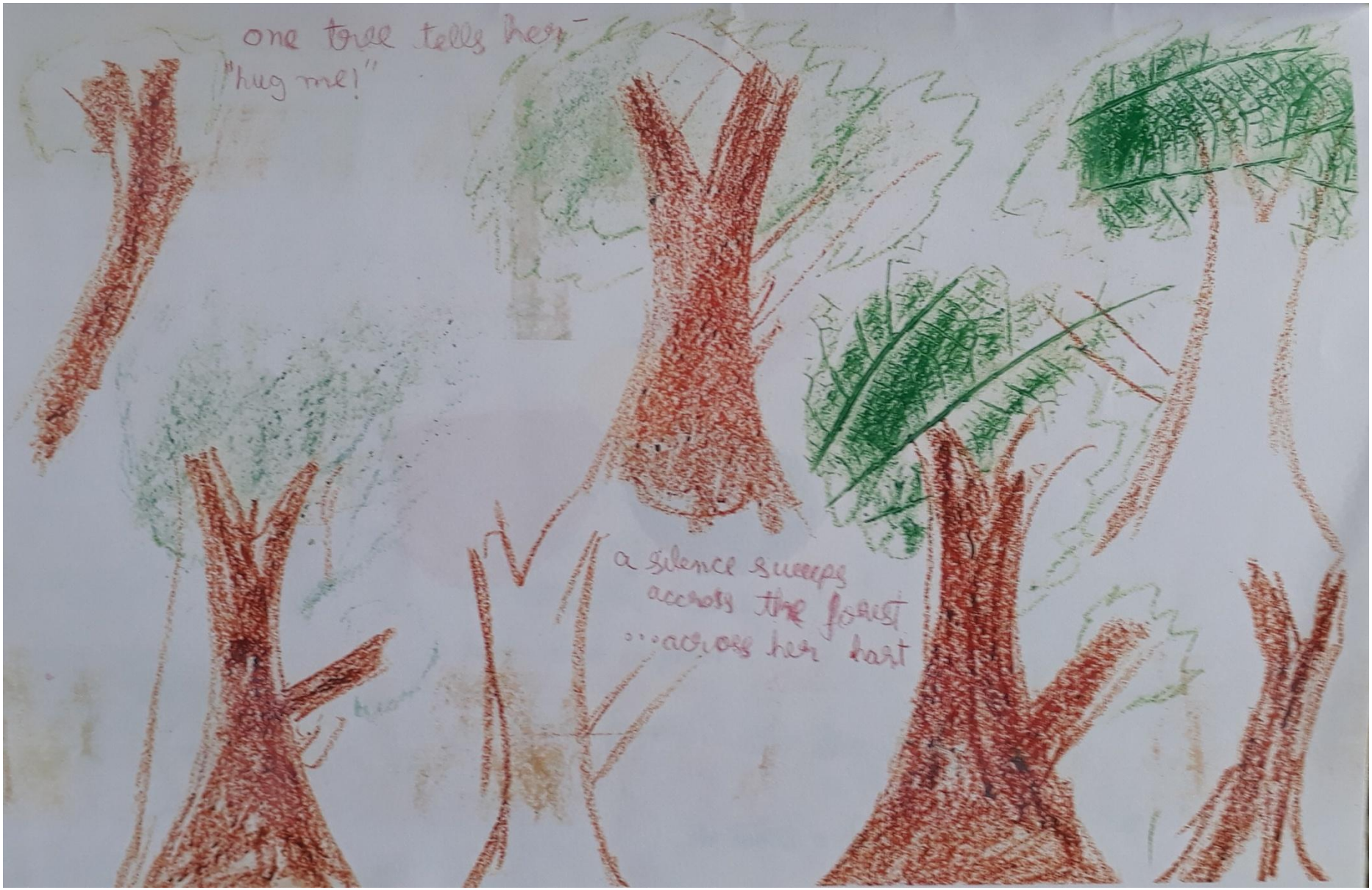

The little girl
things -
I want to feel the rain
...
I want to see the forest
The mud

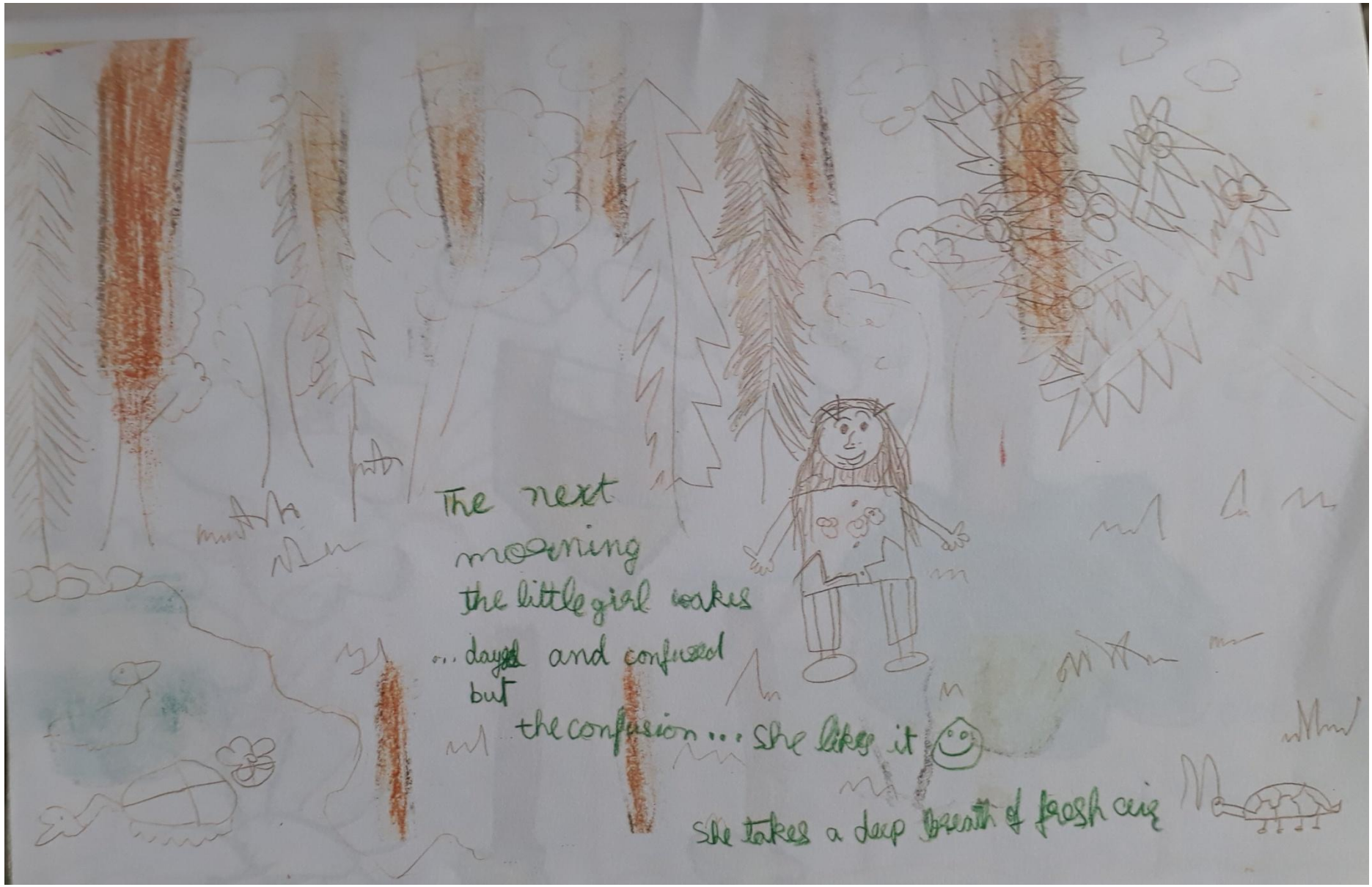


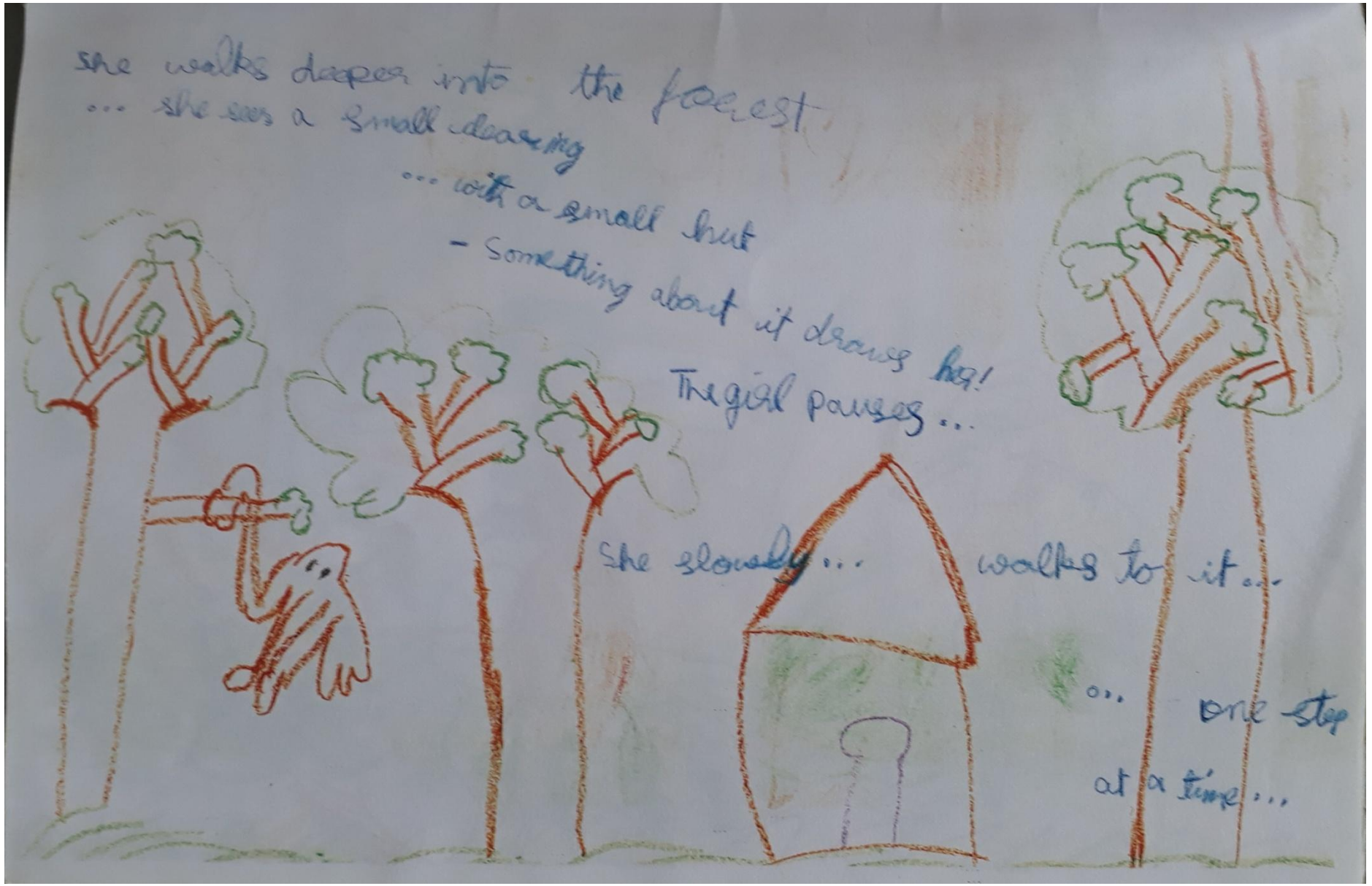

She begian to think - may be this is all a bad Idea
then access the road
The forest appeared..


she saw
the trees covering
everything
...as if the sky had
been eaten up...
In green


The leafs felt
so fresh...
So wet...
so strange...


one tree tells her
"hug me!"
a silence sweeps
across the forest
...across her heart


The next
morning
the little girl wakes
... dazed and confused
but
the confusion ... she likes it
she takes a deep breath of fresh air


She walks deeper into the forest
... she sees a small clearing
... with a small hut
- Something about it draws her!
The girl pauses ...
She slowly ... walks to it ...
... one step
at a time ...

Her friend is happy ...
and cheerful ...
and full of life!
... Sopose and just full ... so free ... so wild ... so kind
She's not like the forest is her mother

THE END?

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